



# Soundings

<http://www.uas.alaska.edu/uas/new/soundings.shtml>



*Classroom construction to begin*

## Campus changes

Site excavation on the new classroom begins Monday. Trucks will use the accessible parking lot every ten minutes to get to the site. Campus deliveries should use the "bagged" accessible parking spaces so as not to block truck access.

Following are some of the other campus changes as a result of construction:

The bus stop is moved to the lower level of the main parking. Silt fences for erosion control will be installed below Mourant and Hendrickson Annex. A sediment pond will be installed adjacent to Mourant. A pedestrian bridge will span the new drainage ditch on the path to housing. The walk from the parking lots to Mourant will be closed. The library entry and stairs will be closed temporarily while the soffit is removed from the stair roof. In a couple of weeks the main library entry and stairs will be demolished and a temporary entrance will be established for the remainder of the project.

## Housing retention up

Retention in student housing from this year to next year is up 46 percent for single students and 116% in family housing. The deadline for signing contracts for next year's housing was March 30. Single students signing up for apartments increased from 56 to 82. Students signing up for family housing increased from 6 to 13. There are a total of 188 apartment spaces. The 84 beds in Banfield Hall are reserved for incoming freshman.

"This is the most full the apartments have been since we built Banfield Hall," according to Timi Tullis, residence life manager.

Housing Director Tish Griffin suggested another reason for the big increase is increased gpa for housing students.

"We're attracting and keeping good students," she said. "In part that's because we provide a supportive environment. We have an in-house tutor. We established 24-hour access to the Lodge. UAS housing a fun place to live."

## Housing hall director funded

Banfield Hall will have a full-time, live-in hall director for the next three years through a FIPSE grant focused on a joint project aligning all Alaska boarding schools and universities. "This creates an incredible support for first-time freshman students in Banfield Hall," according to Tish Griffin. "The hall director will do academic advising and support the residence life manager."



## Humanities Conference Friday and Saturday

A journalist from Zimbabwe who was jailed and tortured for a story he published will be the keynote speaker at the UAS Humanities Conference. Ray Choto speaks at 7 p.m. Friday in Egan Library.

Saturday at 9 a.m. a panel will discuss their work in human rights and participants will consider the writings of international human rights activists. The Conference is sponsored by UAS, Amnesty International and the Juneau World Affairs Council.

Related activities April 7 include a workshop at 2 p.m. on the UAS campus and a presentation by Ken Wiwa at 7:30 p.m. in the Scottish Rite Temple. He will discuss and read from his book, "In the Shadow of A Saint: A Son's Journey to Understand the Legacy of His Father."

## Free speech at the University of Alaska

"I take the unusual step to state clearly and unambiguously what all of us would take as a given," UA President Mark Hamilton wrote in a memo to the chancellors. "The University of Alaska acknowledges and espouses the right to freedom of speech."

Hamilton's comments have been reported in Alaska and national newspapers. He also wrote, "Opinions expressed by our employees, students, faculty or administrators don't have to be politic or polite. However personally offended we might be, however unfair the association of the University to the opinion might be, I insist that we remain a certain trumpet on this most precious of Constitutional rights."



Legislators Beth Kerttula, Juneau; Mary Kapsner, Bethel; Peggy Wilson, Wrangell; Bettye Davis, Anchorage; and Georgianna Lincoln, Rampart.

## Legislators on campus

Five Alaska women legislators appeared at UAS to talk about barriers and opportunities for women in politics as part of the Women's History Month. Among their comments: "When women vote, women win." "Ignore the people who tell you that you can't." "I'm the only Alaskan Native woman elected to the Senate. That's a sad thing." "Women work together. Men follow the pecking order."

## Juneau campus

**Auction:** Alumni banquet and auction begins with a no host bar at 6 p.m., April 6 at the Baranof. Dinner begins at 7 p.m. Tickets at the door.

**Human rights:** Zimbabwe journalist Ray Choto, Humanities Conference keynote speaker, at Global Connections, 12:30 p.m., Mourant Lounge, April 6.

**E-mail:** Session to improve e-mail skills, April 6, 1:30 in Whitehead 102.

**Dance:** South Pacific theme, April 7 at the SAC, free to members, \$5 for others.

**Film:** Charlie's Angles, April 13 shown in DVD on the SAC big screen. Pizza for sale and free popcorn.

**Math:** Classes offered this summer include Math 054, Math 055, Math 105, and Stat 107.

**Wilderness:** First Responder class offered May 10-19. Call Beth 6282.

**Bears:** Harry Tullis from the Forest Services presents a bear awareness program at 12:30 p.m. April 12 in the Lake Room.

**Biology talk:** Dr. Bert Boyer, UAF Institute of Arctic Biology, "Molecular aspects of programmed rheostasis in hibernating ground squirrels," noon April 12, Anderson 221.

**Mourant hours:** Student Government extended the Mourant lounge hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in response to student requests.

**Easter eggs:** Faculty, staff and student's children under 10 invited, noon, outside Mourant Cafe, April 14.

**Brendan Kelly,** Juneau biology, is a U.S. delegate on the Steering Committee of the Marine Mammal Working Group under the U.S./Russian Environmental Accord in Santa Cruz April 23-25.

## Sitka campus

For the first time a UAS Sitka class used an underwater viewing boat for a field trip. On April 1, the Natural History of Alaska and the Alaska Naturalist classes joined for a combined trip aboard the Sea Life Discovery Tours underwater viewing boat. Marnie Chapman and Pete Colson coordinated the trip. Students saw red urchins, plumose anemones, sea cucumbers, sea stars and a giant pacific octopus. Other spring trips include a wildlife viewing and a weekend excursion to Juneau to learn about glaciers.

## Ketchikan campus

The campus will have a booth at Expo this weekend. Basic Safety Training for workers on ships will be offered the week of May 21. A series of hazardous materials classes will be offered in May. The ten-session Professional Development class begins April 17. The Certified Public Manager series continues this week.

## Students testify for funding

Student president Tia Anderson was among those testifying for the UA budget at the Senate Finance Committee Saturday. Her report: "We had over four out of the six benches filled, 30 people maybe, including some staff. About 15-20 of us gave public testimony. When I went up to speak I asked everybody who supported the university funding to please stand up. It was a good visual effect and Senator Hoffman stood up too! UAS certainly had a great showing and the University was well represented."

## New hires

Sitka: Rogelio Estrada, accounting technician; Glenda Rice, accounts clerk; Andy Holt, instructional technician.

Ketchikan: Wendy Gierard, public information officer; Barbara Deatherage, trade and technical training coordinator.

Juneau: Rebecca Fitzpatrick, accounts clerk, business office.

## Employee anniversaries

Mary Elsner, 23 years; Michael Ciri, 15 years; Scott Foster, 6 years; Randall Nutting, 4 years; Ivan Hazelton, 3 years; Kathy Tilton, 1 year.

## JUNEAU CALENDAR

### Friday, April 6

- Ray Choto, Global Connections, 12:30 p.m., Mourant Lounge.
- E-mail training, 1:30 in Whitehead 102
- Woorch.Een, 1 p.m. Novatney 213
- Alumni banquet/auction, 7 p.m. Baranof Hotel
- Humanities Conference keynote, Ray Choto, 7 p.m. Egan Library

### Saturday, April 7

- Humanities Conference, human rights, 9 a.m. Egan library
- South Pacific dance, 9 p.m., SAC.

### Tuesday, April 10

- Student government elections

### Wednesday, April 11

- Student government elections

### Thursday, April 12

- Biology seminar on hibernating ground squirrels, noon, Anderson 221.
- Bear awareness program, 12:30, Lake Room

### Friday, April 13

- National Youth Service Day
- Film, "Charlie's Angles," 7 p.m. SAC.

### Saturday, April 14

- Children's Easter egg hunt, noon Mourant Cafe.

## Student success

**Writing:** UAS Regional English 111 Writing Contest (March) first place, David Nicolls (student of Judy Andree); second place, Bryce Kidd (student of Don Cecil); third place, Virginie Duverger (student of Don Cecil); honorable mention, Carlea Whitworth (student of Don Cecil).

**Archie Shiels:** Statewide freshman writing contest judged by UAF faculty. Kimberly Andree, winner and Emma Laverder second runner-up, both UAS students of Alexis Easley.

**Poetry:** Winners of the Between the Lines poetry slam were all from UAS: Tia Anderson, first; Meredith Wallis second and Gary Fresquez third.

**Science:** Neal Tex and John Kyritz, Biology 396 students, counted 70 harbor porpoises in the Auke Recreation area last week during their systematic survey. This is the highest count since the monitoring project began 2 years ago. Porpoises may be feeding on herring, according to Beth Mathews.

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